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## BOOK REVIEWS

THE CONQUEST OF THE OLD SOUTHWEST. By Archibald Henderson. New York: The Century Company. 1920. Pp. 395.

The remarkable epoch of American expansion suggested by the name of Daniel Boone has long needed intimate and sympathetic treatment. Professor Archibald Henderson's recently published book, *The Conquest of the Old Southwest*, fills this need adequately.

It was Howells of Rhode Island, I believe, who prophesied wonderful things of the "Gods of the Mountains", as he called the mountaineers of West Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. He saw in their pristine simplicity, their rugged sense of honor, and their exceptional initiative, excellent promise that democracy in the New World would hold its own; and he went so far as to say that when the Eastern seaboard became rich and arrogant, and the offensive exponent of aristocracy and plutocracy, it might be these free men of the mountains who should descend upon it, as the Goths did upon decadent Rome, and bring the ozone of their heights to purify the political atmosphere of the lowlands.

No one has so clearly brought out just how these "Gods of the Mountains" performed something closely resembling this service as has Professor Henderson in this volume. While the formula of Howells was not carried out as regards a destructive onslaught upon the East, these mountaineers gained much the same end by their constructive onslaughts upon both the redmen of the West and the vast unoccupied wilderness of the central Mississippi Basin. Between the spurs of the Alleghenies, along the Tennessee and upon the Kentucky, they established still-born republics of their own in those peculiarly important years between 1770 and 1780; the influence of these independent democracies, as at Watauga, at Nashville and at Boonesborough, was far-reaching; the attitude of every seaboard colony owning western lands was considerably transformed by the sterling quality of this *hinterland* outpouring of the spirit of independence; the leaven of the mountain democracy tended to leaven our whole lump.

To the author's enterprising ancestor, Judge Richard Henderson, full justice is at last done in this volume, honestly, efficiently and filially. His part in the conception of the Transylvania Company and in carrying it into execution is admirably set forth; the inevitable answer is given here to all and sundry who may incline to criticise Henderson's purchase of the great tract of Kentucky soil from the Indians as contrary to Virginia law; if he was a flagrant speculator, so were the Governor of Virginia, Patrick Henry, and others less well known. But of Henderson's activities we have this assurance: the first Kentuckians to secure land from Henderson were well repaid for adventuring with him; he sold land at low rates and his scheme afforded Kentucky a stable government during the crucial days of 1775-6. Virginia, although she repudiated Henderson's 'purchase' from the Indians, recognized the constructive value of his great measure of initiative by giving all those who had purchased from him as good a title to their land as a Virginian could get; and in lieu of lands taken from Henderson Virginia gave him a generous equity elsewhere.

Again, the author well brings out Henderson's part in laying the foundations of Nashville and as author of its original compact of settlement—that quaint document which contains, among other articles, one which legalizes the recall of judges who do not measure up to their responsibilities, in the opinion of the people.

But while the volume is concerned more with Colonel Henderson than with the other "Gods of the Mountains", it also gives attention to the services of Sevier, Robertson and Shelby. A critic might well hold that these men are not made so conspicuous in the story as Sevier's later services to Tennessee, for instance, would warrant. Nevertheless, new material regarding Colonel Henderson is so valuable that one is inclined to overlook the author's stressing of his part in the movement. It is a distinct contribution to the story of the epoch.

All readers and students of history are placed in Professor Henderson's debt for his succinct and graphic account of the Indian War by which the valleys of Tennessee were cleared of their British-inspired redskins, and for his splendid telling of the story of the "Regulators" and of the battle of King's

Mountain. No volume in print so thoroughly identifies the sources of information, manuscript and documentary, with the main facts of these stirring events as does *The Conquest of the Old Southwest*. While the exasperating and antiquated *format* of placing footnotes at the end of the volume is followed, they are none the less useful when finally caught in their lair. The author has studied many of the original documents which relate to his theme, and, in not a few cases, pours a flood of light upon obscure matters for which even the most erudite will have occasion to be grateful; although one is now and then disappointed when a crucial note, which promises a revelation, proves to come from only a semi-trustworthy secondary source.

The volume is a distinct addition to our history. It is most serviceably put together, excellently illustrated, and contains a well-constructed bibliography and an adequate index. Every page shows the literary taste and skill of the author, making the volume unusually readable and attractive.

ARCHER BUTLER HULBERT.

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THE I. W. W.: A STUDY OF AMERICAN SYNDICALISM. By Frederick Brissenden. Second Edition. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. New York: Longmans, Green, and Co., Agents. 1920. Pp. 438.

As an American labor association the Industrial Workers of the World date their organization but fifteen years back. Moreover, only since the Lawrence, Mass., strike, in 1912, have the I. W. W. become nationally prominent. Up to that year the association had achieved little more than a local notoriety, their activities being practically confined to certain districts in the Middle and in the Far West. Even to-day the I. W. W. are weak in numbers and yet weaker in the consideration in which they are held by the great masses of American laboring men. Indeed, the importance of the I. W. W. and their revolutionary programme is potential rather than actual.

Yet the attention of all thoughtful men, alive to the real issues of our day, will be challenged by the programme of the organization: direct action through the seizure of the instruments of production and distribution, instead of waiting for the same re-